Telling America’s Story

American Literature Advanced Final Writing Project

Now that we have brainstormed the social forces at work on the individual in contemporary America, we are going to put these forces to work in our writing. This project will attempt to do what each great work we’ve read this year has attempted to do; that is, answer the question: what does it mean to be an American during any one period of time? This project will launch us into the highest levels of critical thought. Instead of analyzing literature, you are going to take what you’ve learned this year and **synthesize** it with your own writing talent.

Overview and Grading

In a series of stories, memoir vignettes, series of poems, graphic comics, *et cetera*, you are going to explore how the different social forces at work in contemporary America affect individuals. (Examples can be provided for each of the genres above. Hybrid genres are welcome.)

In addition, you need to employ a myriad, a plethora, a cornucopia, a…well…a heck of a lot of the Literary Devices we’ve studied this year. See Literary Devices worksheet for a complete list. (Avoid clichés at all costs! They will not be counted.)

Though you are exploring the genre of your choice, proper grammar and mechanics needs to be taken into consideration. I expect that you will do **multiple drafts**of this writing project. I will collect all work done on the writing so I can examine your drafting process.

Class time will be given to work on this (though not an exorbitant amount), and your use of time during those classes will go into your final grade.

Your grade will also reflect how much you’ve learned about writing over the course of this year—variety of punctuation, sentence variety, clarity of sentences, organization of ideas, imagery, *et cetera*.

You’re doing the work undertaken by the greatest minds of our country. Add your voice and perspective to the great yelp of American Literature.

Due Date

This will be due the day of your exam. I will not accept your project early or late. You must be present to read and listen to your classmates’ projects on the day of the exam.

*Remember, good writing is specific and honest.*